

Dear Chairs Winfield and Stafstrom, Vice Chairs Kasser and Blumenthal, Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein, and Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Gabriella Izzo and I am a pediatric resident physician. I write to provide testimony in support of **Raised Bill No. 6321, An Act Concerning the Adoption and Implementation of the Connecticut Parentage Act**. Passing the Connecticut Parentage Act is a necessary step towards ensuring that all children in Connecticut can benefit from secure and consistent relationships with their parents. The current parentage laws focus only on the rights of biological mothers and fathers. The laws fail to recognize many parents in Connecticut especially same-sex couples who create their family using assisted reproduction.

Research shows that it is incredibly important for children to establish secure relationships with their parents, in fact I would argue that it is the most important factor in ensuring healthy development for the child. Legal recognition of parents provides stability to the relationship between the child and parent and is necessary to allow parents to provide continuous care for their child and to foster a secure attachment. Without legal recognition, the relationship is fragmented. Only legal parents can visit their child in the hospital, provide them with health insurance and make important medical decisions. As a resident working in the hospital I can say that there are few things more heart-breaking than seeing a child without their parent.

We must update Connecticut's laws to reflect the diversity of today's families. The Connecticut Parentage Act will ensure that a child's parents can gain the legal recognition they need to fully care for their children. I ask the Committee to support Bill 6321.

Sincerely,  
Gabriella Izzo